



5 April 1993

**Dr Ejup STATOVCI**

**YUGOSLAVIA - KOSOVO**

Dr Ejup Emina Statovci (51 years old), a lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the University of Priština, is an ethnic Albanian from Kosovo province in southern Serbia.

On 23 March 1993, Dr Statovci received a phone call from a Serbian official at Priština police station to report there immediately, which he did. At the police station he was arrested and taken to Priština prison to serve the remainder of a 60-days' prison sentence which he had started in January last year.

On 22 January 1992, Dr Statovci was arrested and sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment by the court for petty offences in Priština for having "insulted and belittled the social and political order of Yugoslavia and the moral and patriotic feelings of its citizens" according to Article 18, paragraph 1 of the "Law on Public Law and Order" of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. He reportedly had written to the Serbian rector of the University, Radivoje Papovi\_, and asked him to resume education in the Albanian language for ethnic Albanian students, which had effectively ended in late 1991. Dr Statovci was immediately imprisoned but subsequently released as the lower court's decision was annulled by the Serbian Supreme Court<sup>1</sup>. By that time he had spent 11 days in prison.

However, on 24 June 1992, the same court reportedly revoked its decision, annulling its previous annulment. Dr Statovci has now been rearrested to serve the rest of his sentence. The court reportedly did not notify Dr Statovci of this decision, which is final without the possibility of further appeal.

**Reason for Amnesty International concern:**

**Amnesty International is concerned that Dr Ejup Statovci has been rearrested and imprisoned as a result of his non-violent exercise of the right to freedom of expression. This freedom is guaranteed in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by Yugoslavia in 1971. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience and is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release. agencies.**

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<sup>1</sup>See for more background to this case EERAN 02/92 (EUR 48/06/92) and EERAN 02/92 UPDATE (EUR 48/02/92A) .